

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 5-6, 10-11 and 15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 5 are amended claims 2-4, 7-9 and 12-14 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter disclosed therein. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully appreciate the indication that claims 4-5, 9-10 and 14-15 contain allowable subject matter.

The Office Action objects to claim 4 because of informalities. The cancellation of claim 4 renders the objection moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claim 4 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 6-8 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art in view of Katoozi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,594,631); claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Katoozi in view of Tocci ("Digital Systems Principles and Applications"); and claims 6-8 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Katoozi and Tocci in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The incorporation of the subject matter of allowable claim 4 into independent claim 1 renders independent claim 1 allowable. As such, independent claim 1, and its dependent claims, are patentable over the applied references. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 5-6, 10-11 and 15 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: August 17, 2005

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